



INSIDE

- Page 2** Volunteer remembered
- Page 3** Tops in Blue; Sergeants STEP
- PAGE 4** Cancer-fighting diet; Benefits extended
- Page 5** "Rebluing" in basic
- Page 6** Tax center changes; Banned dogs
- Page 7** Year of Family ends
- Pages 8** Centennial flight
- Page 9** Pump gas safety
- Page 10-11** Of Note
- Page 12** Family winners; Veteran artist
- Page 13** NCOA's new leader; Childcare fees rise
- Page 14** Movies; Command TV
- Page 15-17** Services
- Page 18-19** Sports

377th ABW weigh-ins Jan. 20-31

A mandatory weigh-in for all 377th Air Base Wing military members is Jan. 20-31.

All personnel must report to their orderly room. Those going on temporary duty must comply before departure.

TODAY
High 49
Low 30

TOMORROW
High 47
Low 30

WEATHER

SUNDAY
High 51
Low 26

Force Protection Condition ALPHA+

Straight Talk,
853-4636
Emergency,
SNOW Line,
853-7669



Photo by Damian Bohannon

Serving with distinction
Maj. Gen. Kenneth W. Hess, Air Force chief of safety, pins the Distinguished Flying Cross on Staff Sgt. Yandall Goodwin. The pararescue man from Kirtland AFB served in the March Geko 11 mission of Operation Enduring Freedom. The mission with Geko 11 was to recover personnel involved in a fierce fire-fight with Al-Qaida. Goodwin exited an HH-60G aircraft amid enemy mortar, small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire to recover and treat four wounded soldiers while in-flight through enemy-held territory.

Enlisted high year of tenure changes

BY MAJ. JOHN J. THOMAS
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas—Airmen serving in most enlisted ranks will now have an additional two years available to serve on active duty.

The change was effective Jan. 1 and is part of an initiative to retain enlisted people's skills and experience, Air Force Personnel Center officials here said.

The revised high-year-of-tenure policy means senior airmen can serve up to 12 years of total service; technical sergeants up to 24 years; master sergeants up to 26 years; and senior master sergeants up to 28 years. Remaining unchanged are staff sergeants at 20 years and chief master sergeants at 30 years.

"Extending years in service will increase our ability to adequately sustain a highly skilled enlisted force and reduce

experienced-noncommissioned officer shortages created by both the drawdown in the early '90s, and lower retention trends for the past several years," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

Seen as a good option for most Airmen, later high-year-of-tenure dates may affect the status of assignments, promotions, re-enlistments and evaluations for thousands of enlisted members, said officials.

"No one will be forced to stay longer, but a lot of people will be able to—if it fits their plans," said Master Sgt. Mike Hall, superintendent of retirements here. "We encourage everyone near their high year of tenure to visit their local military personnel flight, especially those with planned or pending assignments, separations or retirements."

In the case of senior airmen, high-year-of-tenure dates will automatically be extended to 12 years, regardless of any scheduled separation date after Dec. 31. Those planning to leave the service soon may be allowed to continue to serve at their current duty location or be reassigned, based on Air Force needs, officials said.

Those Airmen who have already spent government funds associated with a separation or retirement will be exempt from the changes, officials said. Typically that includes people who have already shipped household goods, a car, or if their families have already moved using government funds.

The last revision of high-year-of-tenure dates was in 2001, according to officials. At that time maximum years of service for technical sergeants was increased from 20 to 22 years.

Flu shots available for military, retirees, family members, DOD employees

Flu shots are available to active duty and their dependents, retirees and their dependents and all eligible DOD employees.

The shots are administered at the

377th Medical Group Immunization Clinic. Hours are Monday-Wednesday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 7 a.m.-noon. The Immunization Clinic is closed noon-1 p.m. daily.

377th Air Base Wing Operational Readiness Exercise begins Jan. 13